

Recycling and Refuse Management Committee

Minutes from 3/04/10 meeting, 4:30 pm

Present: Meg Vickery, Chair; Susan Waite, DPW Liaison; Lucy McMurrer; Greg Keochakian; John Root, Marianne Lorenzelli, Jean Murray (visiting)

January 21, 2010 minutes approved with minor changes.

Membership Recruitment Efforts:

The meeting was opened on time with discussion relating to recruitment. Susan will be speaking with candidates who may have interest in joining this committee. Hwei-ling Greeney has declined, as has Geoff Friedman, the ARHS Environmental Action Club sponsor. Ricci Mastroianni has similarly declined due to time constraints. Solomon Goldstein (ARHS student) has scheduling conflicts and we are awaiting a response from Tom Walsh, currently with Hampshire College. Visiting today is retired nurse Jean Murray who has expressed interest in joining this committee; is an avid recycler, frequents the transfer station and is asking questions about the application process. This discussion culminated with Susan's explanation of the role of this committee. Additional background information will be forthcoming.

Styrofoam Packaging Topic:

A draft of the proposed bylaws was distributed. Ensuing discussion informed the committee that Susan and Lucy met with representatives at the Department of Public Health and shared the revisions. A DPH representative suggested adding an effective start date enabling a grace period, which would eliminate the need for an exemption process (which could prove onerous for the Health Department). That date has yet to be determined. Additional suggestions involve creating programs for education at the Sustainability Festival. Ongoing education could be web-based and broadcasted through ACTV. Use of the Earth Day Gazette/Bulletin insert was discussed. Anticipated challenges might involve a lack of compliance and 'buy-in' by those affected by the proposed changes.

Future Waste Disposal Options:

Susan outlined that the role of this committee in the process for choosing landfill alternatives is mainly research based. This committee has agreed on the importance of being involved in gathering a broad spectrum of information for Guilford Mooring who is responsible for planning any eventual changeovers from the current system. Ideas for new systems were discussed in earlier meetings. This meeting focused on forming a subcommittee to begin gathering information and soliciting RFPs. Meg and Sterling will begin working to create an action plan with Jean Murray's help.

Town Center Recycling Program:

Obvious obstacles to this program are the result of anticipated town cutbacks and a subsequent lack of workers available to adopt new systems. Alternatives to using town resources were discussed. One idea outlined a program for local businesses to adopt a recycling receptacle and to be responsible for its contents. The Chamber of Commerce might be able to offer help or suggestions on the best approach to encouraging more involvement. Another idea has businesses contributing money to pay for this service.

and yet another has waste haulers including this service as an aspect of their contracted service package with the Town of Amherst.

New information:

This committee will be involved in the Sustainability Festival and will run games providing education. Information and statistics will be gathered in the meantime. A sign-up sheet for participating at the Sustainability Festival will be forthcoming. The Crocker Farm composting program is up and running and other *green* initiatives are being considered.

Meeting adjourned 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Keochakian